



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshitaka SASAKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3729

Application No.: 09/650,690

Examiner: R. CHANG

Filed: August 30, 2000

Docket No.: 100988.01

For: METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING THIN FILM MAGNETIC HEAD WITH
IMPROVED PERFORMANCE

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G. Leatum
G. Laatum
12/8/03

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

DEC 03 2003

Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

In reply to the July 22, 2003 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species 4, Figure 28, with traverse. Claims 23-28 read on the elected species.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 23-33 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present

application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the Election of Species Requirement and to examine all claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kevin M. McKinley
Registration No. 43,794

JAO:KMM/jfb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: November 24, 2003

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